

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 216

WHEREAS, The annual State Civics Fair, a nonpartisan, community-based event celebrating youth civic engagement, took place on March 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The State Civics Fair is hosted by the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, a division of the Moody College of Communication at The University of Texas at Austin; since 2002, the institute has coordinated the innovative civic education program Speak Up Speak Out, which challenges third grade through high school students to work together in groups to identify community problems, develop solutions, and vie for the opportunity to present their ideas to community leaders at the State Civics Fair; the winning teams receive funds to use toward implementing their ideas; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 9,000 students, 175 educators, and 92 schools have participated in the Speak Up Speak Out program since its inception; over the past year, around 700 young Texans worked to identify and brainstorm ways of addressing various civic issues, including waste management, social isolation, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Out of all of this year's participants, 117 were invited to showcase their solutions at the State Civics Fair; the 27 teams hailed from elementary, middle, and high schools in nine cities, and each of their members earned distinction for themselves through their hard work, initiative, and thoughtfulness; and

WHEREAS, The Speak Up Speak Out program is helping young people to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to become the engaged citizens and leaders of tomorrow, and the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life is to be commended for its ongoing commitment to this important endeavor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 2021 State Civics Fair, honor this year's talented participants, and extend sincere thanks to the staff of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life for the guidance and support they have provided to our future leaders.

Campbell, Menéndez

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on April 6, 2021.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate